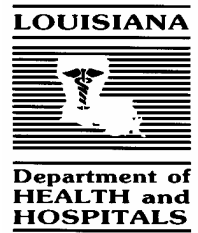




STATE OF LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS



Bioterrorism Laboratory Specimen Triage Guideline

<b>Category 1- high priority</b>	
Human specimens and culture isolates from cases of illness with signs and symptoms judged by a clinician or epidemiologist as consistent with infection/intoxication due to a recognized BT agent.	Environmental and/or Human specimens collected from a scene or associated with an event that is deemed a credible threat for a named agent by the State Police in concert with local law enforcement.
Action: Perform testing immediately on receipt of specimen (24/7)	
Testing: Perform culture and other testing--PCR, Antigen detection (by Time-Resolved Fluorescence, TRF)-- as indicated by the probable agent.	
<b>Category 2- intermediate priority</b>	
Human specimens from cases of illness with a low possibility of causation by a BT agent, ie, ill patient but clinical picture not typical for BT agent.	Environmental and/or Human specimens associated with a criminal act (felony menacing, hoax) for which a specific agent is named, but is a non-credible threat.
Action: Perform testing on the next regular business day	
Testing: Perform culture for the threat agent on probable criminal specimens; other testing deemed appropriate as indicated by the situation.	
<b>Category 3-low priority</b>	
Human specimens from patients with no discernible illness or specimen obtained for epidemiologic studies	Environmental and/or Human specimens deemed non-credible threats.
Action: By agreement with the State Police or Epidemiology, perform testing of human exposure or environmental specimens collected on a mutually-agreeable schedule.	
Testing: Perform culture for the threat agent as requested by submitter.	